



PATENT *HW*

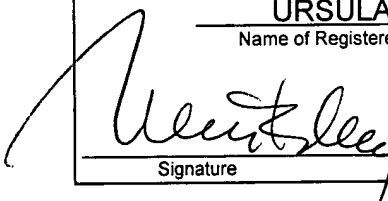
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: SEGURA

In re Application of:)
JOSÉ MARIA SEGURA)
Appl. No.: 10/500,621)
Filed: June 29, 2004)
For: PULL-BACK MECHANISM FOR A)
COVERING FLAP OF AN AIR BAG SYSTEM)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on <u>July 29, 2004</u> .	
(Date)	
<u>URSULA B. DAY</u>	
Name of Registered Representative	
	<u>July 29, 2004</u>
Signature	Date of Signature

S I R:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the enclosed references which were either cited in an International Search Report issued by the European Patent Office with regard to the corresponding International patent application No. PCT/EP03/00080, or in the instant specification, and any additional prior art known to applicant. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited documents constitutes prior art against the pending application.

Copies of these references are submitted herewith along with form PTO-1449. The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

- ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 1.53(d), so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 1.491 in an international application, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, so that no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 is due.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the issuance of a first office but before issuance of a final action under §1.113, or a notice of allowance under §1.311.
- ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing of a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
- ☐ The undersigned submits the following statement requesting consideration of this statement:

The undersigned hereby states:

- ☐ That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement;
- ☐ That no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ The fee of \$180.00 set forth in 1.17(p).
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee as set forth in 1.17(p), and any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

In order to satisfy the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance of each item of information, applicant herewith submits a copy of the International Search Report. In addition, applicant notes with respect to any information that is not in the English language as follows:

Reference No. DE 299 11 205 U1 describes an “invisible” airbag cover for the interior of a vehicle in the form of a combined support and decorating layer to ensure that upon deployment, no material pieces can reach the passenger space where it could cause injuries, wherein the airbag cover is provided with a weakened material zone or a material separation in the support and at least portions of foam material are removable from the impact by being transported behind the interior paneling such that during deployment of the air bag through a shooting channel is free of any obstructing projections, cams or other elements that could damage the airbag or otherwise hinder its function.

Reference No. DE 100 03 706 A1 describes a gas cushion fitting that includes: - an interior cover (20); - a inflatable cushion (70) designed to occupy (a) a first non inflated state when it is lodged in a volume (56) inside or behind the cover (20) and (b) a second expanded state outside the cover in the direction of the occupant, and; - means (80) for deployment of the cushion (70), when an accident occurs. Deployment means passing from is non inflated state to an expanded state. The chamber (56) for the cushion (70) is at the front delimited by an exterior wall surface (52), facing the vehicle chassis front, of the cover (20) and at the rear, by a rear wall surface (54) and laterally by a lateral wall (55) separating the wall surfaces (52,54) so as to form a housing (50) for the cushion(70). The housing (50) and its volume (56) have an internal height (H), between the wall surfaces (52,54) which is less than one at least of its other dimensions measured parallel to the wall surfaces (52,54). The lateral wall surface (55) and/or the area near to it, the exterior wall surface (52) present a zone (65) with low mechanical

resistance which is designed to break in case of shock, so as to permit the cushion to pass through the opening (68), see Fig.3, formed in this area bordering the exterior wall surface (52).

Reference No. 100 27 122 A1 describes an airbag module (7,8) for a vehicle arranged with a gas generator in a closed unit in the passenger region which opens on triggering. The module unit is fixed to the outside of a component (seat) (4) which has a current supply to the module.

Reference No. 197 26 878 A1 describes a vehicle airbag assembly, to be inflated on an impact collision to protect the vehicle occupants, having a cover (10) with a moving section (5,5') which is tripped by the sensor system to release an opening (7) for the inflating airbag (8) to pass through. The moving cover component moves within the outer contour (15) of the airbag assembly or within the vehicle section holding the airbag unit. The moving cover section (5,5') is shifted by the gas pressure generated by the gas unit (4) directly or through a pressure drive and/or the cover (10) has pref. at least two cover flaps (9,9') and/or the airbag (8) unit is positioned by a guide (14,14') at the housing wall after the opening has been cleared but before inflation and/or a diaphragm is opened in a swing movement system.

Reference No. 197 29 472 A1 describes a lateral air bag mounted in the backrest of the seat with the housing attached to the frame for the backrest. The backrest frame (1,2), at least in the area of the discharge of the air bag, can be made as a metal surface. The metal surface has a cut out has a plastics cover on

the surrounding edge. The air bag casing can be clearly seen through the cut out. The cover of the airbag casing has reduced circumferential play.

Reference No. 197 33 896 A1 describes a vehicle airbag assembly, to be inflated on an impact collision to protect the vehicle occupants, having a cover (10) with a moving section (5,5') which is tripped by the sensor system to release an opening (7) for the inflating airbag (8) to pass through. The moving cover component moves within the outer contour (15) of the airbag assembly or within the vehicle section holding the airbag unit. The moving cover section (5,5') is shifted by the gas pressure generated by the gas unit (4) directly or through a pressure drive and/or the cover (10) has pref. at least two cover flaps (9,9') and/or the airbag (8) unit is positioned by a guide (14,14') at the housing wall after the opening has been cleared but before inflation and/or a diaphragm is opened in a swing movement system.

Reference No. 198 43 191 A1 describes a gas generator installed in a diffusor or housing which in longitudinal section has a stepped construction. The diffusor or housing extends in a lower side wall section spaced away from the gas generator(5) and extends out in the direction of the occupant of the vehicle. The diffusor or housing in an upper side wall section has a smaller cross section than the gas generator and in this section has flow ports(6) for passage of gas into the airbag at right angles to the vehicle's occupant. The upper and lower side wall sections are connected by at least one deformable centre section which has slots forming a weakening in the material.

Reference No. 198 60 840 A1 describes an airbag device having an airbag and a cover with at least one tearing thread in the cover in the region in which the airbag comes out. There are pull-open devices (11) in the region in which the airbag (8) comes out of the cover (5) to grip at least one tearing thread (7) and coupled to the airbag device so that when it is released, before or during the inflation of the airbag, the cover is weakened or opened by breaking at least one of the tearing threads.

Reference No. 199 41 442 A1 describes a safety device(10) fitted in the dashboard(20) of a motor vehicle, and extends out rearwards from the windscreen(22) and defines an installation opening(60). The safety device has a gas-producing inflation unit(46) to inflate an airbag(44), and a door(70) covers the whole installation opening(60). A hinge(76) is connected to the second edge section(74) of the door located furthest away from the windscreen and lies on the dashboard. The hinge supports the door on the dashboard in a pivoting movement around the hinge between a closed position where the whole opening is covered, and an open position where the door's second edge section remains connected to the hinge and lies on the dashboard, and whereby the first edge section(72) of the door stands further away from the dashboard as in the closed position.

Reference No. 42 17 174 A1 describes a safety restraint system in a vehicle comprising a folded inflatable airbag stored behind the dashboard or instrument panel. The airbag (6) is arranged on a swivelling carrier (4) within an opening (2) in the stationary storage area (1). The carrier has an upholstered cover (3) and in the event of an accident the carrier automatically moves from a

normal position to an accident position in which the airbag can be inflated through the opening.

Reference No. EP 0 798 176 A1 describes a control system designed to trigger the inflation of the airbag (1) contained in the vehicle and fitted opposite a seat with seat belts. The system is of the type which uses a data processing unit (2) which controls the triggering of the inflatable bag (1). This unit receives as input the vehicles deceleration data from an on-board accelerometer (3) and connected to a unit which stores the deceleration characteristics of the vehicle. The position protected is the drivers seat, and the system also includes a device (5) for detecting actuation of the safety belts, a device (6) for determining the length of the safety belt strap unrolled when the user is in the driving position, and a device (17) for determination of the orientation of the rear view mirrors. All the devices are connected to the data processing unit (2).

Reference No. EP 0 867 346 A1 describes a vehicle airbag assembly, to be inflated on an impact collision to protect the vehicle occupants, having a cover (10) with a moving section (5,5') which is tripped by the sensor system to release an opening (7) for the inflating airbag (8) to pass through. The moving cover component moves within the outer contour (15) of the airbag assembly or within the vehicle section holding the airbag unit. The moving cover section (5,5') is shifted by the gas pressure generated by the gas unit (4) directly or through a pressure drive and/or the cover (10) has pref. at least two cover flaps (9,9') and/or the airbag (8) unit is positioned by a guide (14,14') at the housing wall after the

opening has been cleared but before inflation and/or a diaphragm is opened in a swing movement system.

Reference No. EP 0 900 703 A1 describes a covering material (21) over the seat back padding (10) and rigid frame (12) having a cutaway portion at the side, bounded by an edge (22) which leaves the front face (18) of the air bag housing (7) exposed in the side (6) of the seat back (4). The front face of the housing is surrounded by an open channel (30) which is embedded in the synthetic foam seat padding, joined to the housing and contains fastenings (27) to retain the edges of the covering material. The fastenings are in the form of supple J-section extrusions which clip into the channel and hold the material in place.

Reference No. EP 1 101 665 A2 describes an air bag flap support (7) that includes a deformable region (12) at the tension side, which can be bent in a direction behind the vehicle interior cladding (1). An independent claim is included for the corresponding method of opening. The manufacturing process for the cladding with airbag flap is also claimed.

The above-identified application discloses and claims an invention patentable over this prior art.

Entry of the references above set forth into the file of the above application is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Docket No.: SEGURA
Serial No.: 10/500,621

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

Respectfully submitted

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Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

Attorney's Docket No. SEGURA	Applicant José Maria Segura	Appl. No. 10/500,621
Filing Date June 29, 2004	Group	Examiner

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date, if appropriate
	5,899,488	05-04-1999	Müller			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
	DE 199 34 600 A	01-27-1999	Germany			No
	DE 198 55 909 A	06-10-1999	Germany			No
	DE 199 58 585 C	02-08-2001	Germany			No
	DE 197 50 182 A	05-27-1999	Germany			No
	DE 100 01 040C1	02-01-2001	Germany			No
	DE 198 60 932A1	07-13-2000	Germany			No
	DE 198 60 933A1	07-13-2000	Germany			No
	WO 01/14172 A1	03-01-2001	PCT			Abstract
	EP 0 970 856A2	01-12-2000	Europe			Yes
	WO 03/064219A1	08-07-2003	PCT			Yes
	WO 96/30232	10-03-1996	PCT,			Yes
	WO 99/46152	09-16-1999	PCT			Yes
	WO 01/10684 A1	02-15-2001	PCT			Abstract
	WO 99/61288	12-02-1999	PCT			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner:	Date considered:	

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-1449U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION**

Attorney's Docket No. SEGURA	Applicant José Maria Segura	Appl. No. 10/500,621
Filing Date June 29, 2004	Group	Examiner

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date, if appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
	DE 299 11 205U1	09-23-1999	Germany			No
	DE 100 03 706 A1	08-10-2000	Germany			No
	DE 100 27 122 A1	12-13-2001	Germany			No
	DE 197 26 878 A1	10-08-1998	Germany			No
	DE 197 29 472C1	11-26-1998	Germany			No
	DE 197 33 896 A1	02-11-1999	Germany			No
	DE 198 43 191 A1	03-23-2000	Germany			No
	DE 198 60 840 A1	09-02-1999	Germany			No
	DE 199 41 442 A1	05-11-2000	Germany			No
	DE 42.17 174 A1	11-25-1993	Germany			No
	EP 0 798 176 A1	10-01-1997	Europe			No
	EP 0 867 346 A1	09-30-1998	Europe			No
	EP 0 900 703 A1	03-10-1999	Europe			No
	EP 1101 665 A2	05-23-2001	Europe			No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner:**Date considered:**

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.